



SUSANA A. MENDOZA

Comptroller

Susana A. Mendoza (Democrat) was sworn in as State Comptroller on Dec. 5, 2016. She was the first Hispanic Democrat to run for a statewide office. Following the appointment of her predecessor, Mendoza won a special election for Comptroller to serve the final two years of the term of her friend, the late Judy Baar Topinka (Republican).

Mendoza was elected on a platform of prioritizing payments to the state's most vulnerable residents during a difficult time in the state's history. Illinois' residents had gone without a budget for more than two years at the time of Mendoza's swearing in to office. On her first day as Comptroller, she directed staff to move state employee bonuses to the back of the line for payment in an effort to expedite payments to social service agencies. These agencies had been waiting more than six months to be reimbursed for services already rendered. Mendoza pledged to serve as an "independent, truth-telling fiscal watchdog that prioritized both the fiscal and moral health of the state."

She was born in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood to Joaquin and Susana Mendoza, who were Mexican immigrants. The family moved to the southwest suburbs as a child. Her notable soccer skills earned her unique opportunities. In high school, her male teammates hoped to have her play on their team; however, the high school's league rules prohibited it. Soon after, Bolingbrook High School and other schools in the conference began a women's soccer program. Mendoza earned All-State and All-Midwest Honors and became the first woman to be honored on the Bolingbrook High School Wall of Fame.

Mendoza was awarded a soccer and academic scholarship to Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, where she earned All-Midwest Honors in soccer and graduated in 1994 with a B.A. in business administration. Following graduation, she moved back to Little Village and worked in advertising/public relations, the hospitality industry and the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development.

In 2000, Mendoza was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives as the youngest member of the Illinois General Assembly. She served six terms representing the neighborhood where she was born on Chicago's Southwest Side. Her leadership and legislation on social services, education, law enforcement, job creation and animal welfare earned her statewide recognition. She was a leading sponsor of HR 1650, which created the panel to impeach former Governor Rod Blagojevich, and served as an active alternate member of the impeachment committee.

In 2011, Mendoza was the first woman elected as City Clerk in Chicago. She worked closely with animal rights groups and took on the puppy mill industry and won. She spearheaded and passed the Companion Animal and Consumer Protection Ordinance, which banned Chicago pet stores from selling dogs, cats or rabbits unless those animals are sourced from humane shelters or animal rescue organizations. As clerk, she successfully transitioned 1.3 million customers away from an inefficient, archaic seasonal Chicago City Vehicle Sticker Sales program to a streamlined Year-Round Sales program. Mendoza increased the revenue the clerk's office earned for the city to \$150 million annually.

Comptroller Mendoza lives in Chicago's Portage Park neighborhood with her husband, David Szostak; their 4-year-old son, David Quinten Szostak; and her 81-year-old mother.

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